

# Student-Led Conferences



**CSUSA Emma Donnan Middle School is Making it Happen!**



**WE ARE** an urban CSUSA Turnaround School on Indianapolis' south side, serving a diverse group of 370 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, 77% of which report as Free/Reduced Lunch.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** reside in all areas of Marion County and most families are new to the school this year.

**OUR TEACHERS** are 30 energetic and caring individuals. This includes six special education teachers and one ESOL teacher.

**OUR PROMISING PRACTICE** Through Student-Led Conferences students are motivated to really take ownership of their education by creating a vision of the future and a map of how to get there through tracking their own data, setting goals, and making action steps. **Students finalized their plans and led conferences not only with parents, but with other members of the community who serve as a proxy for parents who are unable to attend.** Students were paired with community members currently working in the field that matches their future goals. Students were able to ask questions and get advice as community members were able to serve as a sounding board for their ideas. Writing it down on paper is one thing, but saying it aloud to an accomplished, productive member of society, gives it true meaning!

**OUR STEPS** students completed weekly steps in their Personal Learning Plan with their Homeroom teacher. Short weekly presentations that explain what the conferences were about were provided to teachers by Student Services to ensure consistent completion and high levels of student ownership.

## IN OUR OWN WORDS

Research found that a student in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile could move up to the 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile just by tracking their data and goals (Hattie & Yates, 2014).

"I learned that if I want to be ready for High School and College I need to get ready for the PSAT, which is even harder than the ISTEP+." – Jackson Clark, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

"The community member I met with said I have a lot of potential! That made me believe in myself and know that I can achieve my goals." – Andi Harges, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

For more information about our school or corporation, email: [cdunbar@emmadonnanms.org](mailto:cdunbar@emmadonnanms.org) or visit our website: [emmadonnan.org](http://emmadonnan.org)